Widening of Highways in Pauri Garhwal

1778. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of houses have been collapsed in Pauri Garhwal due to widening of highway from Pabau-Bishald Link Road;

(b) if so, the details of houses collapsed in above district during the last three years and the compensation paid to the victims at Bishald;

(c) if no compensation has been paid, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of representations received from the victims in this regard and by when Government propose to compensate them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (d) This Ministry is mainly responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. Pabau-Bishald Link Road in Pauri Garhwal District is not a part of National Highway. Also, this road has not been sanctioned under any centrally sponsored scheme of this Ministry. As per information received from Government of Uttaranchal, no house has collapsed due to widening of the road within the last three years and hence no compensation was paid. Only one representation has been received by the State Government, which is due to natural calamity.

Restoring exemption limit for SSIs

1779.SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Finance Ministry agreed to restore the exemption limit to Rs. 1 crore for the small scale sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has taken up the issue with the Finance Ministry for giving sales tax relief of electronic toys to the SSI sector; and

(d) if so, Finance Ministry's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the Comprehensive Policy Package announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 30.08.2000, the General SSI Excise Exemption limit was enhanced from Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore. The same limit is continuing since 1st September, 2000.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs has informed that as per entry 54, List II in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, sales tax is a State subject. Therefore, any concession in this regard can be granted by State Governments only.

SSIs Role in Economy

1780. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the role played by the small scale industries in the economy today;

(b) how it differs from the role played in seventies and eighties;

(c) whether its role has diminished due to liberalisation of the economy; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The small scale industries have been playing a significant role in the Indian economy in terms of industrial production, employment generation and exports.The role of the SSI sector has not changed since the seventies and eighties. At present, the SSI sector contributes 39% of industrial production, 34% in national exports and provided employment to over 192 lakh persons in 2001-02.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. In fact, the sector has emerged as a vibrant constituent of the economy and is well equipped to face the challenge of liberalisation. A Comprehensive Policy Package announced in August, 2000 contains several measures to further strengthen this sector both domestically and globally. The SSI sector has been assigned an important role in employment generation during the Tenth Five Year Plan. In the context of the announcement made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister for generating 50 million additional jobs in the country during this period, the SSI sector has been assigned the task of creating 4.4 million additional jobs.

Items Reserved for SSI

†1781. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.